



**SNOHOMISH
HEALTH DISTRICT**

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Environmental Health Division

April 25, 2016

Devlin Piplic, Facilities
Monroe School District
200 E Fremont St
Monroe, WA 98272-2336

Subject: School Environmental Health and Safety Complaint Investigation
Name of School: Sky Valley Education Center
Location: 351 Short Columbia Street, Monroe, Washington 98272

Dear Mr. Piplic:

Our office received a complaint on December 1, 2015, regarding 4 light ballasts failing and adverse health effects in multiple teachers. We have since been working with your School District to ensure that the school is a safe learning environment. Over the past several months over 70 parents, teachers and children have reported illness that they associate with the building. We appreciate the work you have done to look into this matter.

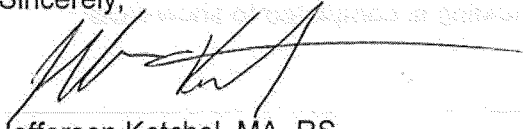
On April 18, 2016, our office received a copy of PBS Indoor Air Quality Assessment Report, PBS #41373.000. According to WAC 246-366-140, "the existence of unsafe conditions which present a potential hazard to occupants of the school are in violation of these regulations." In order to expedite the remediation of the school, as pointed out in the report, The Snohomish Health District (Health District) requires the following:

- The PCB air testing did result in 7 rooms that PBS Environmental has shown to be above the EPA PCB Rfd levels for children less than 3 and less than 6 years of age. Sky Valley is a unique school and children of all ages and pregnant mothers may be in any room at any time. So, as a precaution, the Health District is including 2 additional rooms that were found to have close to 100 ng/m3 (page 60 – 61). The following rooms should be inaccessible to children under 6 and pregnant mothers until follow-up testing is completed to show PCB levels are in an acceptable range:
 - Annex Montessori Science Prep room
 - Room #F
 - Annex Hall – West
 - Room #D
 - Annex Girl's Bathroom
 - Annex Hall East
 - Room A
 - Room C
 - Room #11
- It is unacceptable that there are still light fixtures with suspect PCB oil stains. Please respond in writing within 30 days ensuring that there are no additional failed PCB ballasts, PCB suspect oil or any staining on any light fixtures (page 3, photographs).

- The PBS report pointed to PCB-containing caulk in some areas of the school. The Health District is requiring that the caulk is removed and replaced with a non-toxic alternative by August 1, 2016. Please follow EPA's guidance for this activity. In the interim, staff and students should be notified to not touch or come in contact with the caulk (page 110).
- The PCB-containing paint may be a secondary source of exposure. Please follow EPA's guidance for removal of any PCB-containing paint in the school. This work should be done by August 1, 2016. In the interim, staff and students should be notified to not touch or come in contact with the PCB-containing paint (page 3 and page 49).
- Please ensure that all rooms, including Room #11, are inspected under the unit ventilators to ensure that there is not carpet that may be a source of airborne PCB exposure (page 62). If any carpet is noted, it should be removed using wet-methods and engineering controls under guidance from the EPA. This work should be done by August 1, 2016.
- We appreciate the School District's efforts to thoroughly clean and remove indoor dust. Please notify the Health District when this activity is completed.
- Many of the housekeeping issues at the school have been pointed out in routine Health and Safety Inspections in the past. To this end, the Health District supports your action to hire an additional custodian and work on de-cluttering and cleaning up any mold issues in the school. We plan to conduct a site review the first week of August 2016 to confirm that the school has been thoroughly cleaned and the housekeeping issues that were outlined in the PBS report have been addressed.
- Please let us know a timeline for roof repairs.

Snohomish Health District supports Monroe School District's current effort to address these issues at Sky Valley including adjustments to the air handling system, removing the PCB-contaminated tile in Room D, new filters in the unit ventilators and asbestos abatement in the attic spaces. Please notify the Health District of your prioritization schedule. Additionally, the Health District is available to participate and/or review a schedule. I am available to answer any questions at 425.339.8781.

Sincerely,


 Jefferson Ketchel, MA, RS
 Director, Environmental Health Division

JK/AZ:jg

cc: Nancy Bernard, Washington State Department of Health
 Dr. Fredrika Smith, Superintendent, Monroe School District No. 103
 Michelle Mullen, EPA Region 10
 Nancy Beaudet, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
 John Mannix, Monroe School District No. 103
 Lauren Jenks, Washington State Department of Health
 Gary Goldbaum, Snohomish Health District